(e) No registration or licence is necessary for running courier service from the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.

Settling the cases of postal employees

643. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases relating to the expunction of CR entries and promotion of 117 employees of the office of Postmaster General, Delhi Circle have not so far been decided due to the adamant attitude of a particular officer in spite of reminders from the working staff and the Director General's office instruction and Court directions in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when a final decision is likely to be taken and implemented;

(c) whether Government propose to punish the officer responsible for the delay in settling the cases of the concerned employees; and

(d) if so, how and when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) There are no Court directions in favour of 117 employees working in Delhi Circle. It is not correct that promotions have not been decided due to the adamant attitude of any particular officer.

Their cases for promotion is under review in accordance with Government Instructions on the Subject;

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims

644. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the judgement of Madhya Pradesh High Court regarding the payment of interim compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims;

(b) if so, what follow-up steps have since been taken in this regard; and

(c) how much amount and for what purpose has so far been spent for the rehabilitation and welfare of these victims and how much more is planned to be spent for the same?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Union Carbide Corporation has been directed to deposit a sum of Rs. 250 crores as interim compensation in the trial court within a period of two months time from the date of the order of the High Court (4th April, 1988). The Commisioner of Welfare of Victims appointed under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 is to complete the work of registration of claims in respect of death and personal injury cases within a period of four months from the date of deposit of the aforesaid amount. Steps have been initiated for completion of the work of scrutiny and categorisation expeditiously so that the amount can be disbursed promptly in accordance with the directions of the High Court.

(c) As reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the expenditure it has incurred on various schemes of relief and rehabilitation